



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

toxylin is one of the most valuable of commercial dyes and the business of supplying the wood from which it is made forms an important industry in some of the West Indies. Considerable annoyance has been caused by the fact that some of the logwood or *Haematoxylon* trees contain little or no dye, whole shipments even having been condemned on this account. The so-called "bastard logwood" is not always to be distinguished at the time of cutting. It is either lighter in color or if dark at first it can be recognized by not becoming still darker on seasoning for some months as does the good wood.

Professor Earle investigated the disease in the field and concluded that the lack of pigment was not due to external conditions, or to disease, or to immaturity, but that the logwood is a variable plant and the bastard form is a variety or subspecies.

The percentage of carbon in the ash-free material was determined for different samples with somewhat varying results but showing that the good wood contains a slightly higher percentage, due probably to the carbon in the pigment.

Analysis of leaves, stems and roots of one-year-old plants showed that the bastard plants contained slightly more ash and water, but the difference was very slight.

Extracts of the pigment were made with a number of different solvents from varying samples of wood. The extracts with different solvents did not give parallel results as indicating the amount of pigment. In diluting the extracts chemical changes occurred. Alkalies increase the color of extracts of the good wood but not extracts of the bastard wood. Acids have a parallel effect.

Results on the soluble substances in the wood were not satisfactory on account of decomposition on drying. There are probably several pigments.

After a discussion of the paper the meeting adjourned.

WILLIAM T. HORNE,

Secretary pro tem.

NEWS ITEMS

Dr. H. C. Cowles, of the University of Chicago, devoted a large part of the month of April to field studies in plant ecology in the vicinity of Miami, Florida.

Miss Mary Perle Anderson, supervisor of nature study, University School, Chicago, has been appointed instructor in botany in Mt. Holyoke College for the coming year.

Dr. John K. Small and Mr. Percy Wilson, of the New York Botanical Garden, are spending a few weeks in making collections in the extreme southern end of the peninsula of Florida.

Mr. Homer D. House, recently assistant in botany in the Columbia University, has been acting instructor in botany in Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey, since April 1.

Mr. C. W. Hope, who had published extensively on the ferns of northern India, and many of whose specimens are in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden, died on February 16, at Kew, England.

Prof. Dr. Karl Schumann, of Berlin, died early in April. He was best known for his extensive studies upon the Cactaceae, and the fact that this family is almost wholly American makes his work of particular interest to American botanists.

Mr. Le Roy Abrams, author of the recently published "Flora of Los Angeles and Vicinity," has been appointed fellow in botany in Columbia University. Mr. Abrams received the degree of A. B. from Stanford University in 1899 and that of A. M. in 1902.

Dr. José Ramírez, chief of the section of natural history of the Instituto Médico Nacional, died in the City of Mexico, April 11, 1904. He was the author of "La Vegetación de México" and of various other works on the flora and materia medica of Mexico.

Dr. Hans Hermann Behr, for many years professor of botany in the California College of Pharmacy, died in San Francisco on March 6, in his eighty-sixth year. Dr. Behr was the author of the "Flora of the Vicinity of San Francisco," published in 1888, and of several shorter papers on the Californian and Australian floras. He was also an entomologist, a linguist, and a man of very marked general ability.

In the prize essay competition of 1904, conducted by the New York Botanical Garden, from a portion of the income of the Caroline and Olivia Phelps Stokes Fund for the Preservation of Native Plants, the first prize, of twenty-five dollars, has been

awarded to Miss Mary Perle Anderson, of Chicago ; the second, of fifteen dollars, to Miss Jean Broadhurst, of Trenton, N. J.; and the third, of ten dollars, to Mr. George Gordon Copp, of New York City.

Dr. and Mrs. N. L. Britton and Dr. Marshall A. Howe spent three or four weeks in March and April in making botanical collections in southeastern Florida, with Miami as a base, and on New Providence, Bahamas. Afterwards, Dr. Howe, in company with Dr. C. F. Millspaugh, of the Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, made the return trip from Nassau to Miami in a sail boat, taking ten days for the voyage and making collections on the Joulter Cays, Gun Cay, the Cat Cays and the Bemini Cays.

Fascicle I, of Dr. Janet Perkins' "*Fragmenta Florae Philippinae*" has recently been published by the Gebrüder Borntraeger. This first fascicle is devoted chiefly to an "Enumeration of some of the recently collected plants of Ahern, Jagor, Lohor, Merrill, Warburg, and others." The author, whose work is being carried on at the Botanical Museum of Berlin, has the collaboration of Doctors Brand, Lindau, von Seemen, Graebner, Schlechter, Beccari, Warburg and Radlkofer in the treatment of certain families.

Professor Hugo de Vries, of Amsterdam, has engaged to deliver a course of lectures on "Mutation" at the summer session of the University of California in June and July. He is also to give a series of five lectures at the University of Chicago, August 22-26. Professor de Vries expects to reach New York on June 6. He will spend a few days at the New York Botanical Garden, and on June 11 will deliver the address at the dedicatory ceremonies of the Station for Experimental Evolution of the Carnegie Institution at Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.

The course of popular lectures offered by the New York Botanical Garden for the spring of 1904 is as follows: April 30, "Japan, the Land of Lacquer and Bamboo," by Dr. C. F. Millspaugh; May 7, "The Form, Habits and Relationships of the Cactuses," by Dr. N. L. Britton; May 14, "The Vegetation of the Delta of the Colorado River, and of Baja California," by Dr. D. T. MacDougal; May 21, "Explorations on the Yukon

River, Alaska," by Dr. Arthur Hollick ; May 28, "Arctic and Alpine Plants," by Professor F. E. Lloyd ; June 4, "Carnivorous Plants," by Professor H. M. Richards.

Dr. James Hyatt, the last of the original members of the Torrey Botanical Club, died at Bangall, Dutchess Co., N. Y., on February 27, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. Dr. Hyatt's special work as a lecturer and writer was in the field of chemistry, but like many others of his generation he enjoyed a wide interest in the natural sciences as a whole. Members of the Club will remember the "Reminiscences of John Torrey," contributed by him to the exercises of Torrey Day, celebrated in New York June 27, 1900, in connection with the proceedings of the Botanical Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Fifteenth Annual Report of the Missouri Botanical Garden contains in addition to reports for the year 1903 and library contributions the following scientific papers: "An ecological Comparison of some typical Swamp Areas," by Samuel Monds Coulter (24 plates); "Two Fungi growing in Holes made by wood-boring Insects," by Perley Spaulding (3 plates); "An ecologically aberrant Begonia," by William Trelease (2 plates); "Aberrant Veil Remnants in some edible Agarics," by William Trelease (10 plates). The number of species and varieties in actual cultivation at the Garden as shown by an inventory taken at the end of 1903 is given as 11,357; the number of books and pamphlets in the library, 42,262; the number of mounted specimens in the herbarium, 465,205; the number of visitors to the Garden in 1903, 79,039.

Professor F. S. Earle, who has been assistant curator of the New York Botanical Garden since the autumn of 1901, has resigned his position to accept the directorship of the newly organized Estación Agronómica Central de Cuba. Professor Earle spent the month of March and the early part of April in Cuba, engaged in the preliminary work of locating and organizing the Estación, which is to be at Santiago de las Vegas, about twelve miles from Havana. The staff is to include Mr. C. F. Baker, for the past year assistant professor of biology in Pomona

College, Claremont, California, as botanist; Mr. Percy Wilson, of the New York Botanical Garden, as assistant botanist, and Mr. William T. Horne, now fellow in botany in Columbia University, as assistant pathologist. Professor Earle sailed from New York for Cuba with his family on April 30.

"Alaska, Volume V. Cryptogamic Botany" is the title of a handsome octavo volume of 424 pages and 44 plates lately published by Doubleday, Page & Company, of New York. The subject matter is concerned with the results of the Harriman Alaska Expedition and comprises the following papers: "Introduction," by William Trelease; "The Fungi of Alaska," by P. A. Saccardo, C. H. Peck and William Trelease; "The Lichens of Alaska," by Clara E. Cummings; "The Algae of the Expedition," by De Alton Saunders; "The Mosses of Alaska," by J. Cardot and I. Thériot; "Alaskan Species of Sphagnum," by William Trelease (determinations, by Warnstorf); "Hepaticae of Alaska," by Alexander W. Evans; "The Ferns and Fern Allies of Alaska," by William Trelease. The papers on the Algae, Hepaticae and mosses were originally published in the Proceedings of the Washington Academy of Sciences and are here reprinted from the same electrotype plates, bracketed figures indicating the original pagination.